Photo History

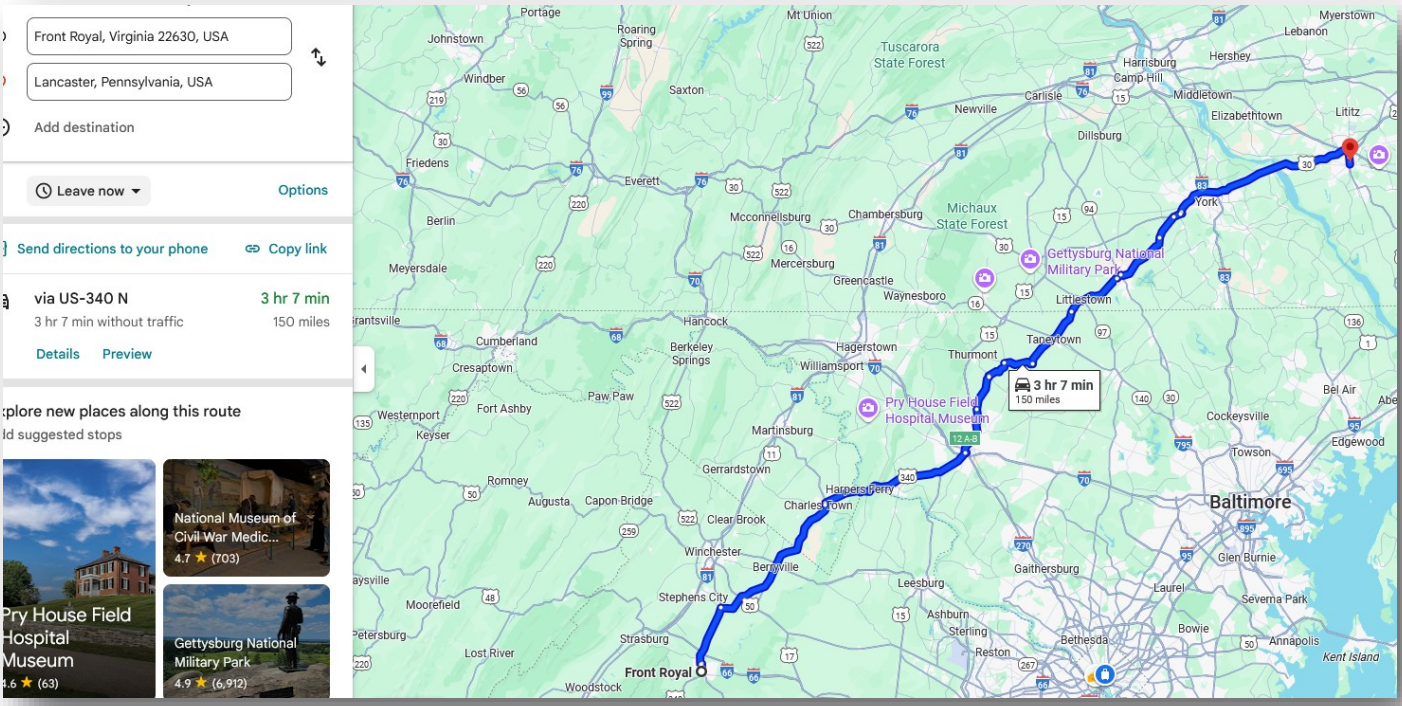
From September 2025

(Volume 197)

WASHINGTON DC#2

Cover Picture

A great number plate for Mr. Potato-head



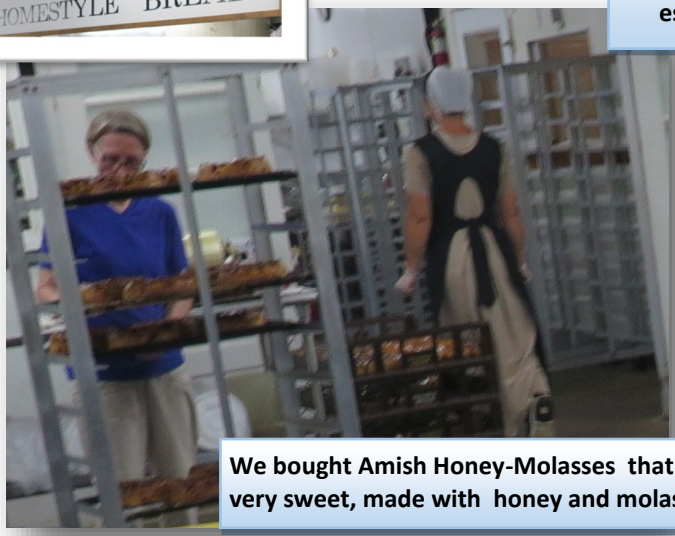
Lancaster, is at the centre of both the Amish and Mennonite communities which stem from the Anabaptist tradition, emphasizing simplicity, humility, and separation from mainstream society. Pennsylvania is home to the largest Amish population in the United States, with over 92,000 Amish residents spread across more than 60 settlements. The state also hosts a rich diversity of Mennonite groups, especially in regions like Lancaster County. The Amish communities, was founded around 1760. They are known for gray-topped buggies and relatively progressive technology use.. Nearly all congregations belong to the same affiliation, though practices vary slightly between districts.

We had no intention of intruding and were lucky enough to see many local Amish going about their daily routine. Their farms were very productive and many that we saw had beautiful houses in large acreage

The Amish have got very fertile and productive farms

Amish buggies were seen in more modern environments.

Historically, bicycles were expensive when introduced in the 1800's and rural roads were not ideal for bikes. Once a tradition is established it tends to persist often with these adaptations



We bought Amish Honey-Molasses that were very sweet, made with honey and molasses

Sadly the Amish have succumbed to the 'tourist demand' (including us, I must admit) with attractions that included buggy rides, train rides, and numerous 'Disney-Like' attractions

We were told that, as it was a Monday, we would see washing lines adorned with the simple robes (minus buttons) all across Lancaster County and with the occasional buggy outside the houses

STRASSM
COND

ORFOLK AND WEST

89

STRASBURG
DONALD E. HALLOCK
STRASBURG, PA

9 3/4
Strasburg Rail Road
Defining America
1915
RUTLAND
6081
WHEN EMPTY
RETURN TO

Saltsburg is a really pretty small town with many historic, well preserved houses in beautiful countryside

It was settled in 1817, incorporated in 1836 with a population of around 780 residents as of the 2020 census. The name comes from the salt industry that thrived along the Conemaugh River

STRASBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
1787
120 E. MAIN
Presented by the Heritage Society
HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST OF LANCASTER COUNTY
c.1787

SECURED BY
XFINITY
Home

Saltsburg

KELLER'S
BARBER SHOP

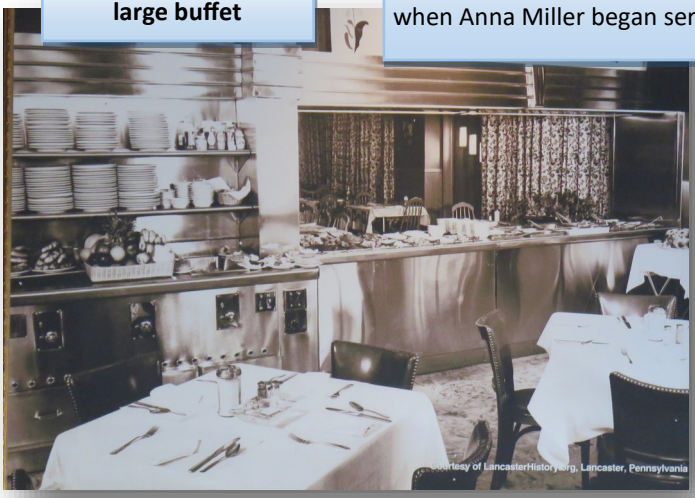
Front gardens were mainly non-existent as the houses were close to the road but the rear plots were extremely large and kept tidy with these 'sit-on' mowers

Photo History

This was an amazingly large buffet

2811 Lincoln Highway East, Ronks, PA 17572

Authentic Pennsylvania Dutch tender roast chicken served over waffles with gravy, not syrup. It's a dish rooted in heritage and comfort. This is a tradition dating back to 1929 when Anna Miller began serving truckers while her husband repaired their rigs



Miller's Smorgasbord

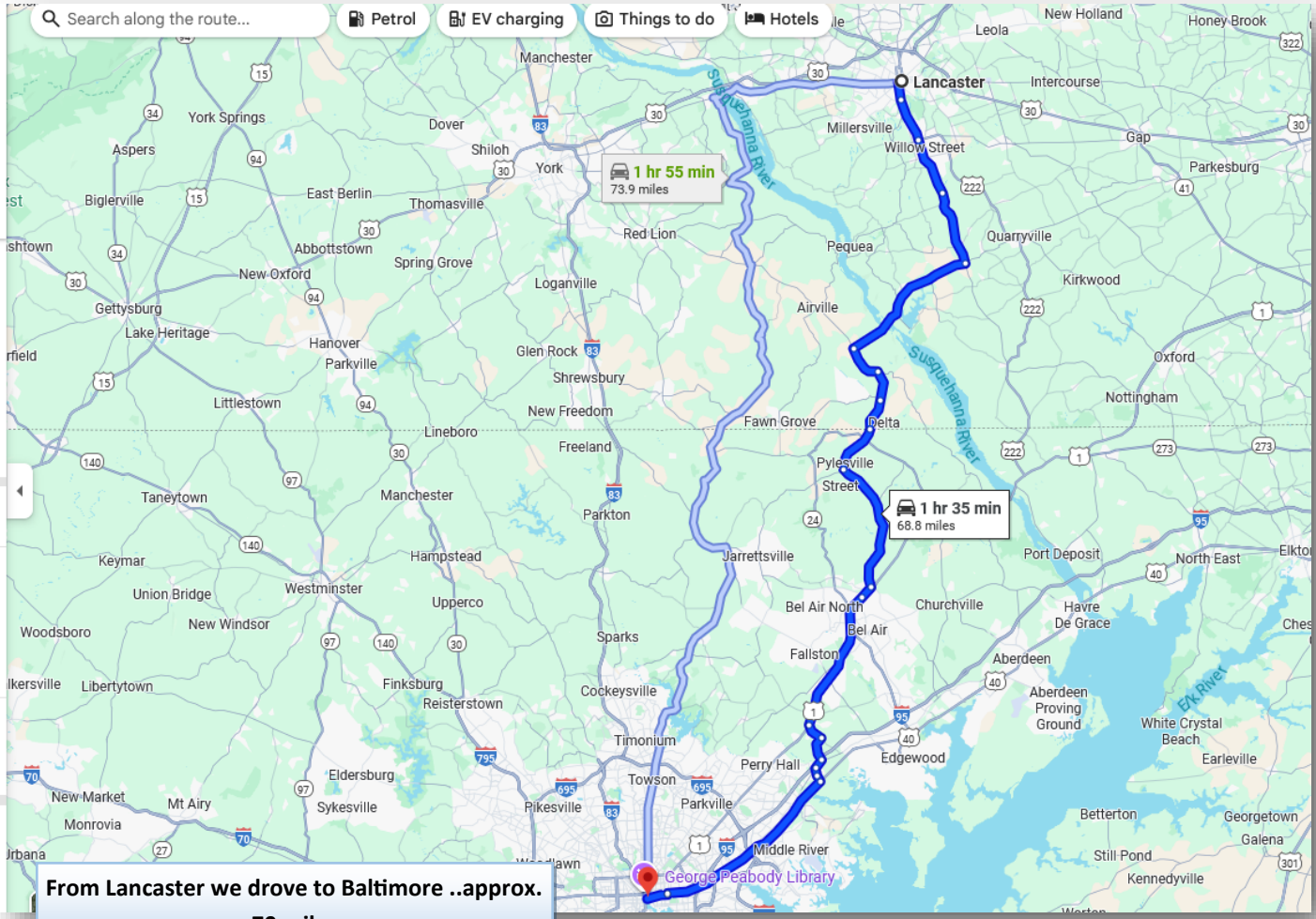
ALL-YOU-CARE-TO-EAT

Traditional Smorgasbord Dinner

All-you-care-to-eat, including:

Appetizers • Soups (8 options) • Salads • Breads • Hot Entrees •

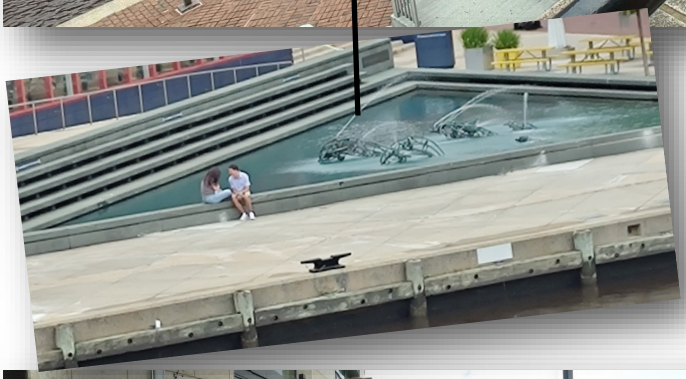
Hot Sides • Carving Station • Dessert Station **$31.99**



From Lancaster we drove to Baltimore ..approx. 70 miles

Our hotel was very central and we made good use of both the Charm City (Baltimore) Circulator free buses and also the free Harbour Connector (free ferries)

Despite an initial rainy welcome, the weather improved and we grew to love Baltimore

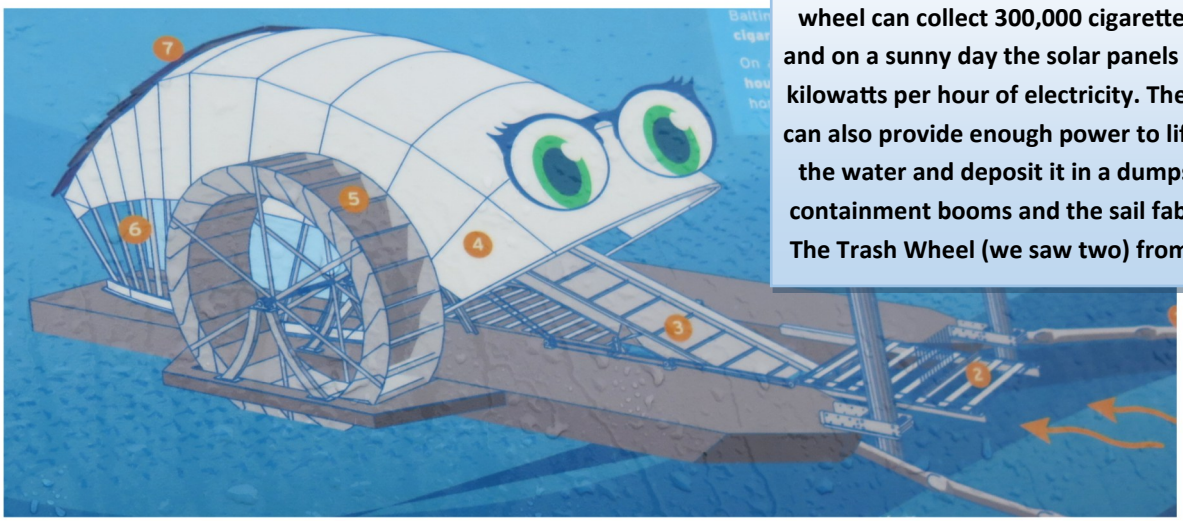


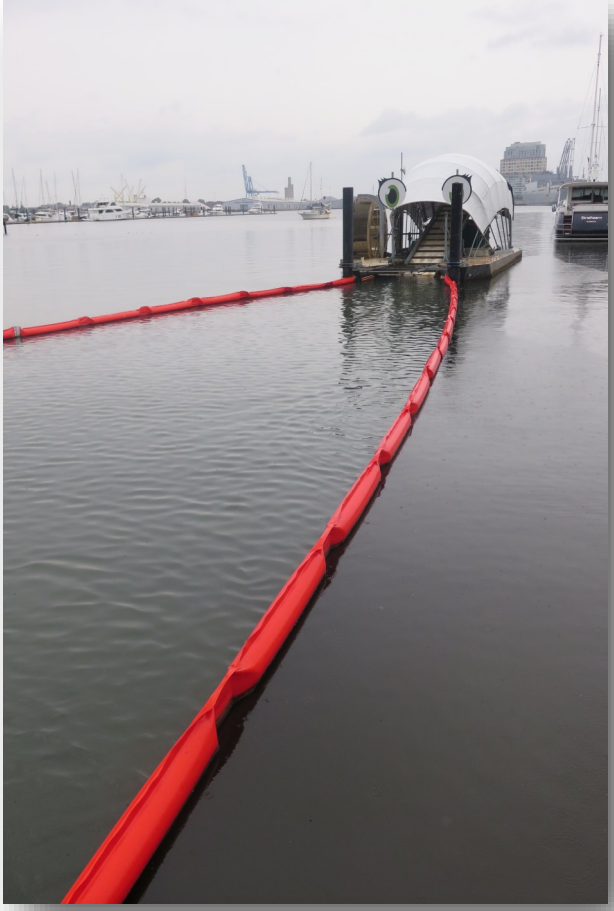
We walked everywhere and over the few days we spent there we got to know the City well

They called these sandwiches...we called them banquets

A great place...Cinghiale Osteria in Lancaster Street Baltimore

These Trash Wheels were so fascinating we had to find out more about them When it rains, water carries litter off the streets into storm drains which would flow unfiltered into Harris Creek. The trash wheel can collect 300,000 cigarette butts a month and on a sunny day the solar panels can generate 30 kilowatts per hour of electricity. The stream current can also provide enough power to lift the trash from the water and deposit it in a dumpster barge. The containment booms and the sail fabric protects the The Trash Wheel (we saw two) from wind and rain.





For 133 years, the Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse and its beacon provided a safe guide for sailors at the mouth of the Patapsco River, 12 miles downstream from Baltimore's Inner Harbor. First lit in 1856, the Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse is the oldest screwpile lighthouse in Maryland and was in active use until its relocation to Baltimore's Pier 5 in 1988. The lighthouse was restored by Living Classrooms Foundation and has been designated a National Historic Landmark. It is now managed by Living Classrooms Historic Ships in Baltimore.

Baltimore World Trade Centre

Around Inner Harbour

Disused(?) police boat

Halloween is a Bigger occasion in the USA than in the UK and many yards were brilliantly decorated

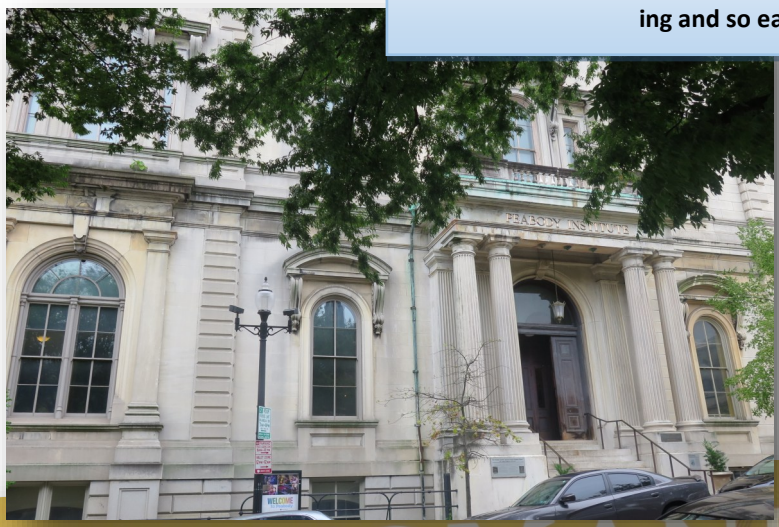
I always love the contrast between the old and the new. This is The Grand Hotel

An irony that these homeless were sleeping outside the Baltimore City Courthouse,

Around Mount Vernon were many old buildings and it was wonderful walking round that area

A wonderful cover from The Peabody Library

We met a young man , Greg near Mount Vernon and he spoke to us for over an hour extolling the virtues of the local area and insisted we visit The Peabody Library behind us. I apologise if I have spend more than one page on this location but it was astounding and so easily missed...totally fascinating



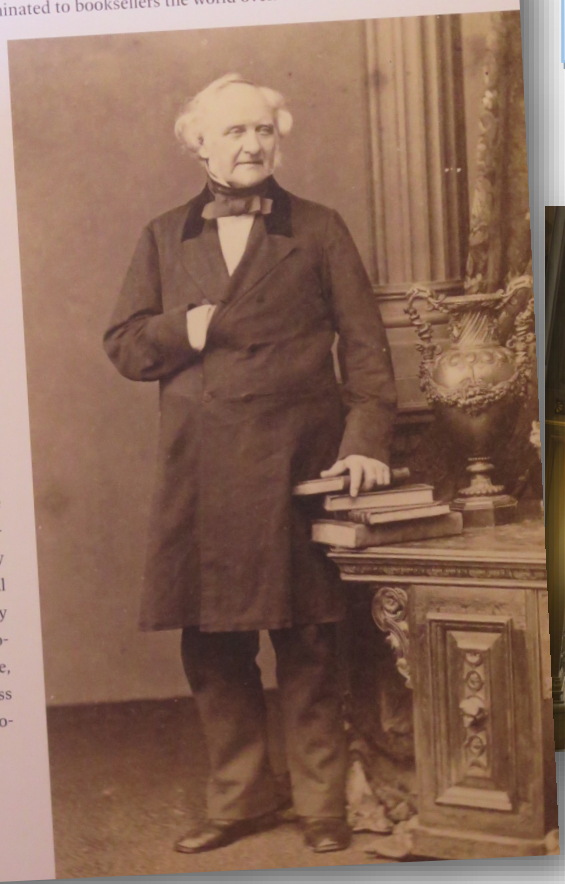
BIBLIOMANIA

150 YEARS OF COLLECTING RARE BOOKS FOR THE GEORGE PEABODY LIBRARY

The Peabody Library was founded in 1857 with an initial donation of $300,000 from the Baltimore financier George Peabody. His wish was to establish an institute that might "become useful towards the improvement of the moral and intellectual culture of the inhabitants of Baltimore" and "the enlargement and diffusion of a taste for the fine arts." While the nation suffered through the destructive cataclysm of the Civil War (1861–65), the recently established Peabody Library remained a relative beehive of productive activity. Its trustees and first librarian conceived of an initial collection of 50,000 books, and busily gathered half that many volumes by the library's tenth anniversary in 1867.

Throughout the war years, the earliest stewards of the Peabody Library compiled ambitious "desiderata lists" of titles to be purchased, which they published and disseminated to booksellers the world over. These desiderata included everything from rare Renaissance imprints to the most recent scientific pamphlets, outlining a plan of almost universal knowledge. Within the crucible of the Civil War and its aftermath, this deeply creative undertaking constituted part of a "united effort," George Peabody observed at his institute's dedication in 1866, "to bind up the fresh and broken wounds of the nation." Equipped with an ever-expanding library and cultural institution worthy of the world stage, Baltimore could hold its head high among America's Athenian cities of the second half of the 19th century.

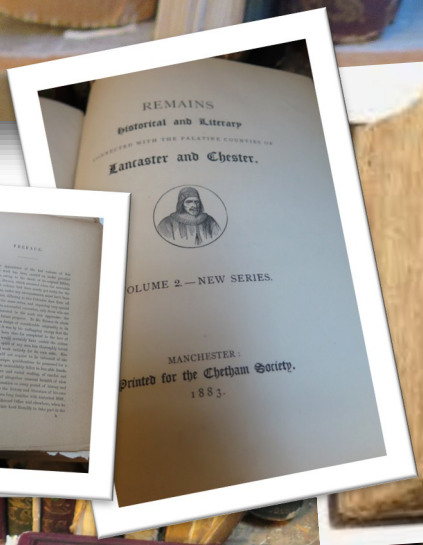
"Bibliomania: 150 Years of Collecting Rare Books for the George Peabody Library" tells this foundational story for the first time through many of the library's rarest and most precious books. From its first collecting intuitions during the 1860s to the vaulting ambition of its cast-iron architectural expansion in the decade that followed, the Peabody Library has long remained a visionary "Cathedral of Books." Sometimes succumbing to the pathology of an all-consuming "bibliomania" and the bibliophile's eccentric obsession for the rarest of the rare, the Peabody Library's collection has nonetheless registered the pulse of a great American metropolis all along its way.



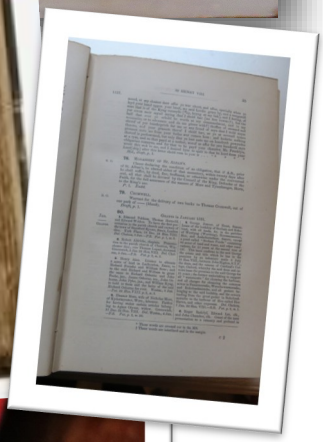
Carte de visite, Photographic portrait of George Peabody, London, n.d., George Peabody Library.

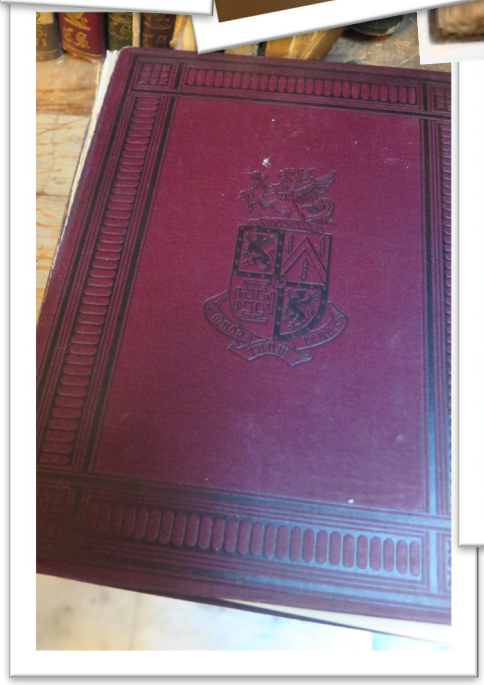
For anyone who loves books, especially old books, this must be paradise on earth

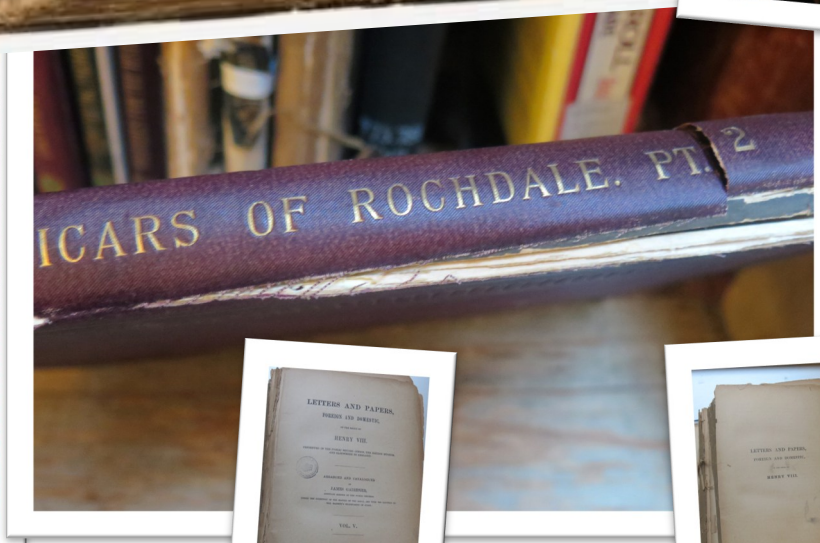
Five levels of irreplaceable old book plus the ground floor. I found it fascinating that students were working using laptops at some of the tables.

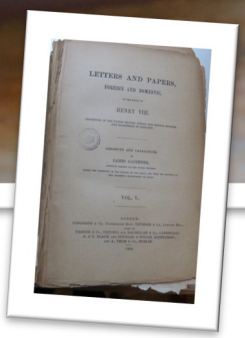


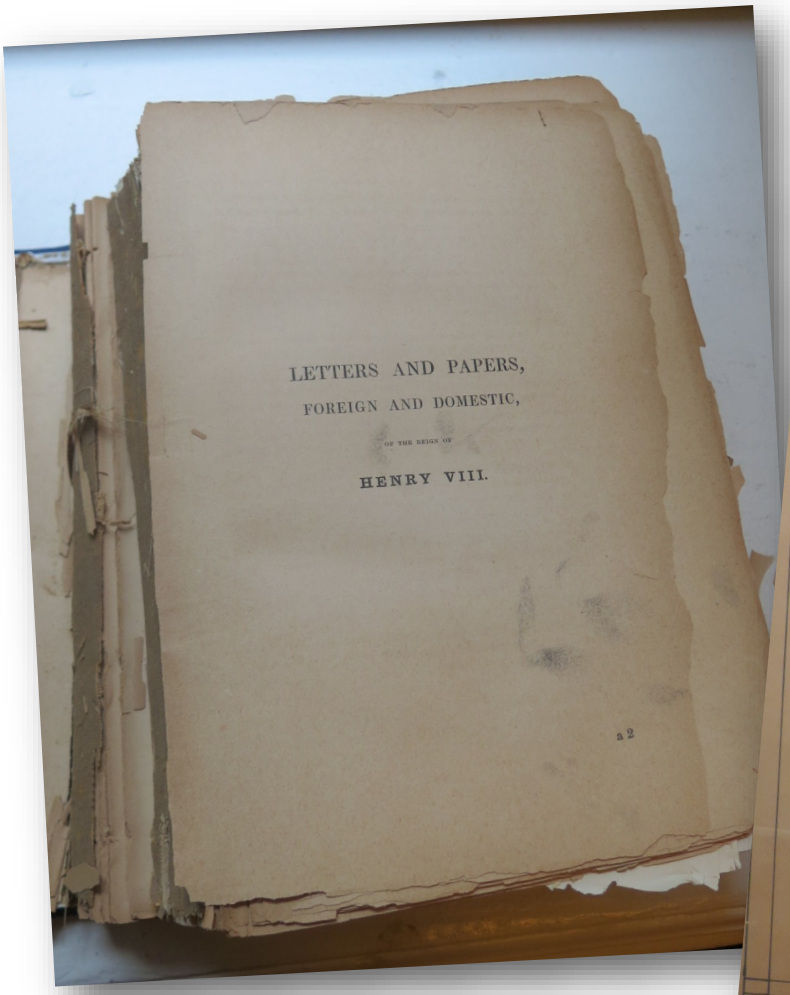
The books were such an eclectic mixture and one wonders if any are actually read nowadays. There are shelves on every floor from ground to ceiling and one is free to just go and look and handle them. Many we looked at virtually crumbled as the pages were turned. It was a real privilege to see this fantastic library

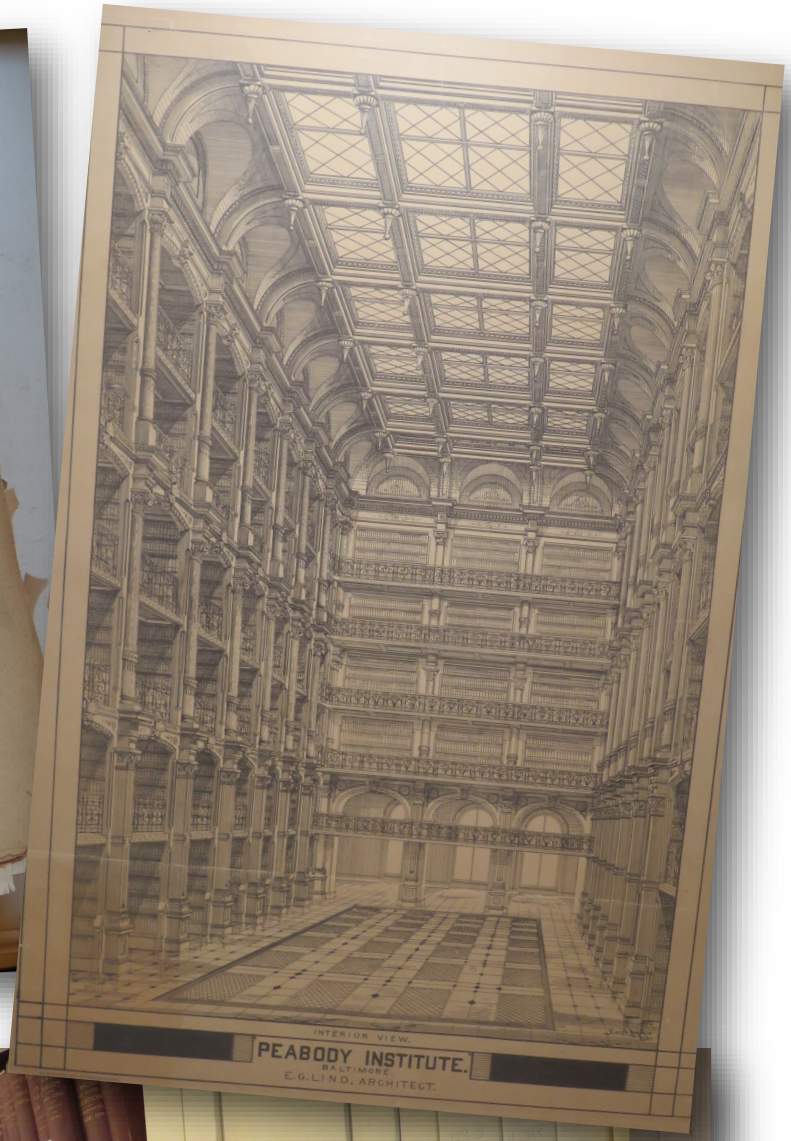









LETTERS AND PAPERS,
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC,
OF THE REIGN OF
HENRY VIII.
a 2


INTERIOR VIEW.
PEABODY INSTITUTE.
BALTIMORE
E.G. LIND, ARCHITECT.

The Flag House and Star-Spangled Banner Museum

844 East Pratt Street, Baltimore
The Star-Spangled Banner: The Flag that Inspired the National Anthem **. The original 30x42-foot garrison flag flew over Fort McHenry in 1814.**

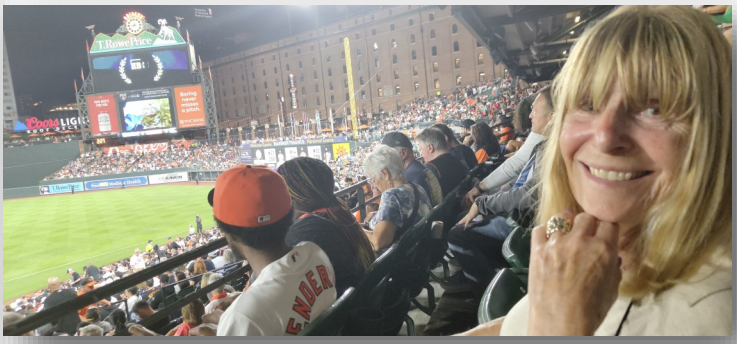
Little Italy

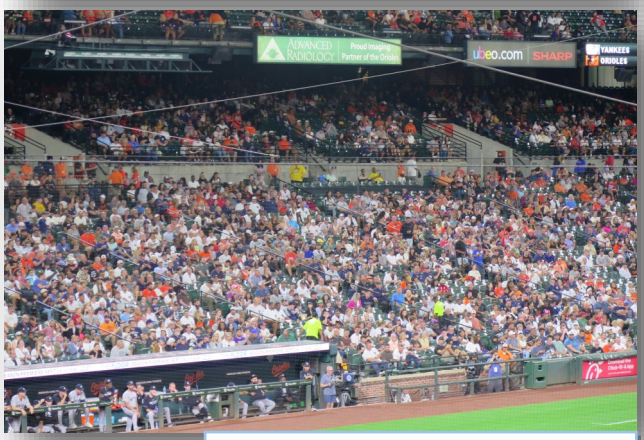
Knead's Bakery

With a lot of ticket problems we eventually managed to get into 'The Yard', the famous home of the Oriole's, for their match against The N Y Yankees

We were given these '1st O's Game badges and also these O's necklaces

Cold beer 'doing the rounds'





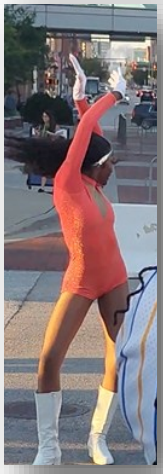
The Yard was totally packed

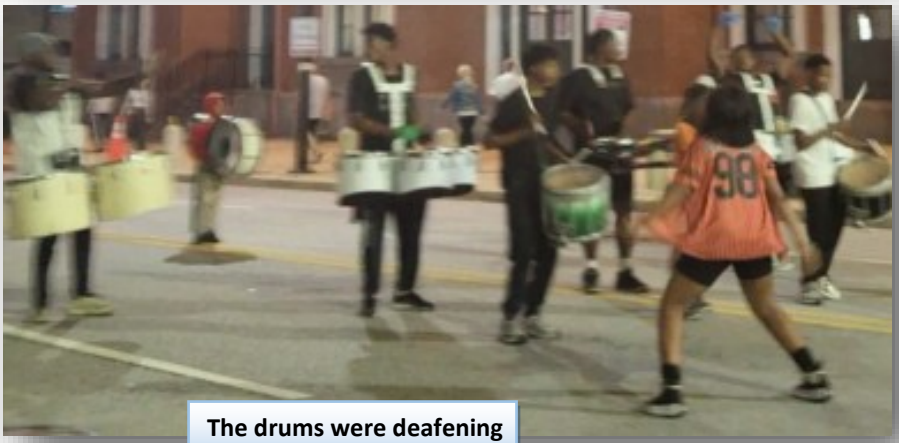
Iced strawberry lemonade carried on her head

This kid had a ball, dancing with the Oriole mascot

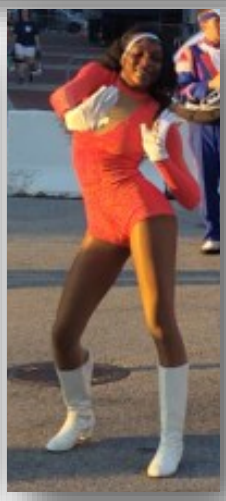
The hot dog dance

The street fun before and after the game

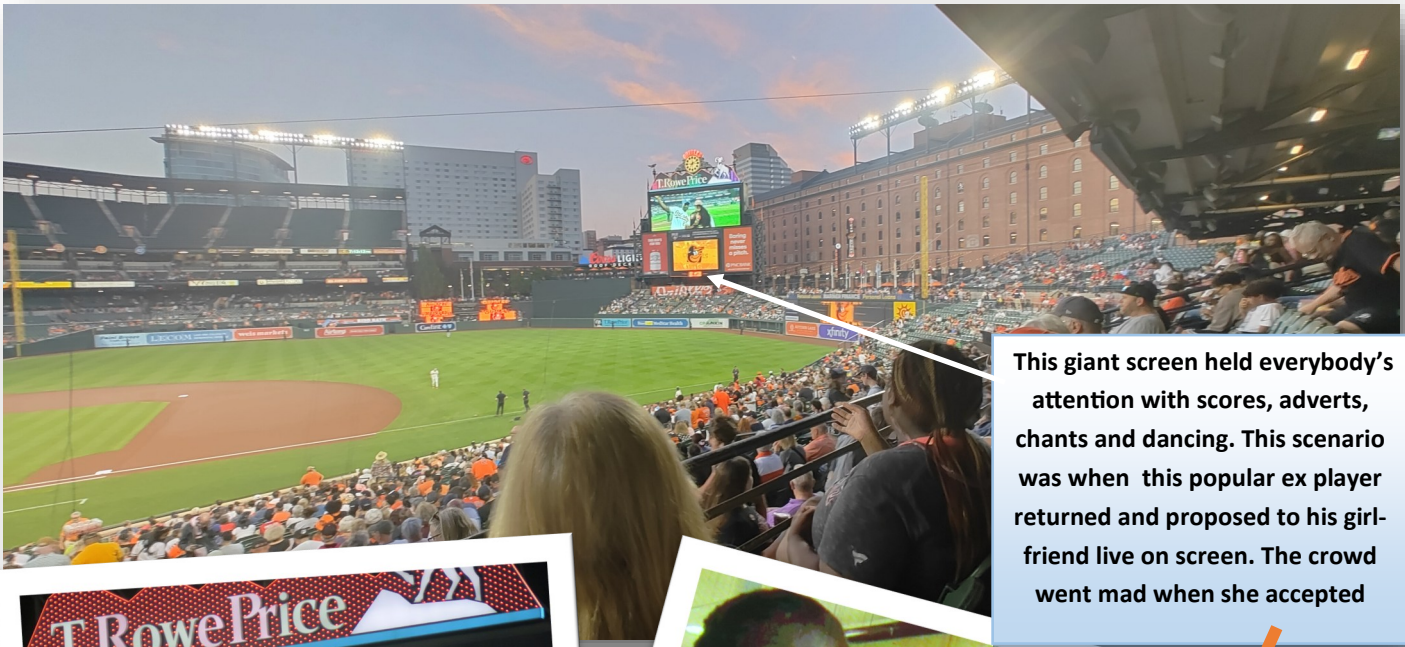




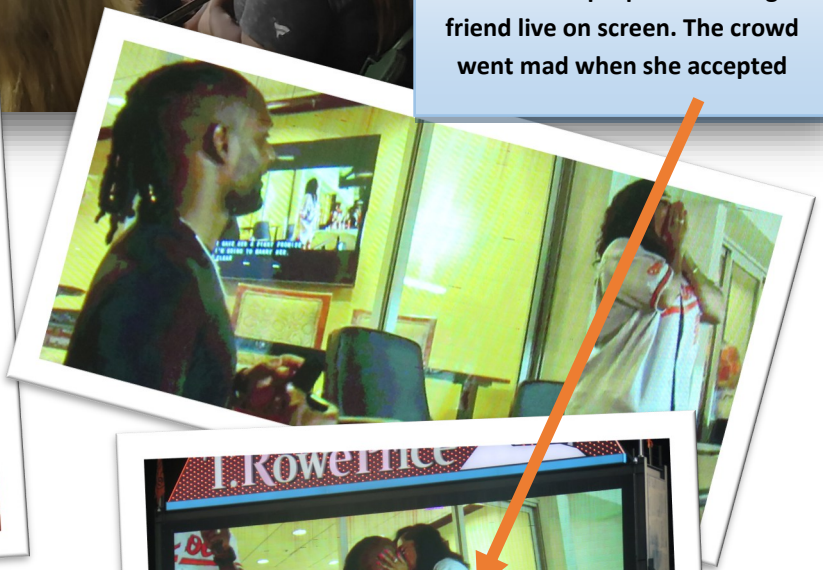
The drums were deafening

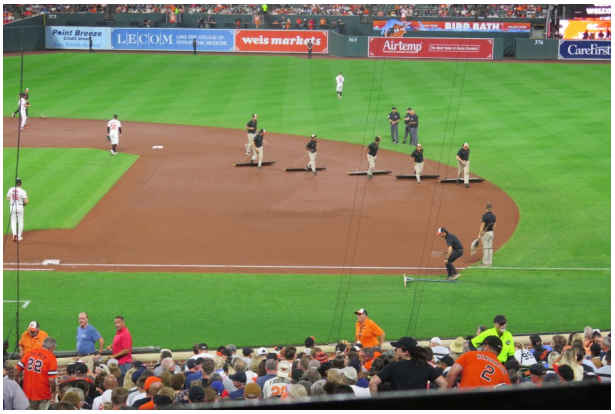


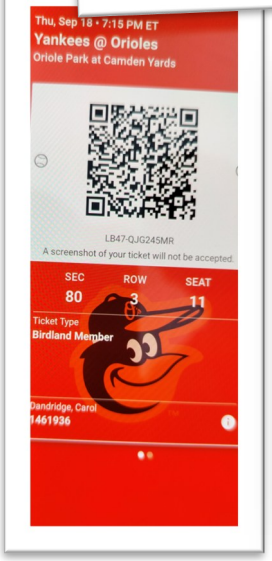
The precision of the dancing showed how well rehearsed it was

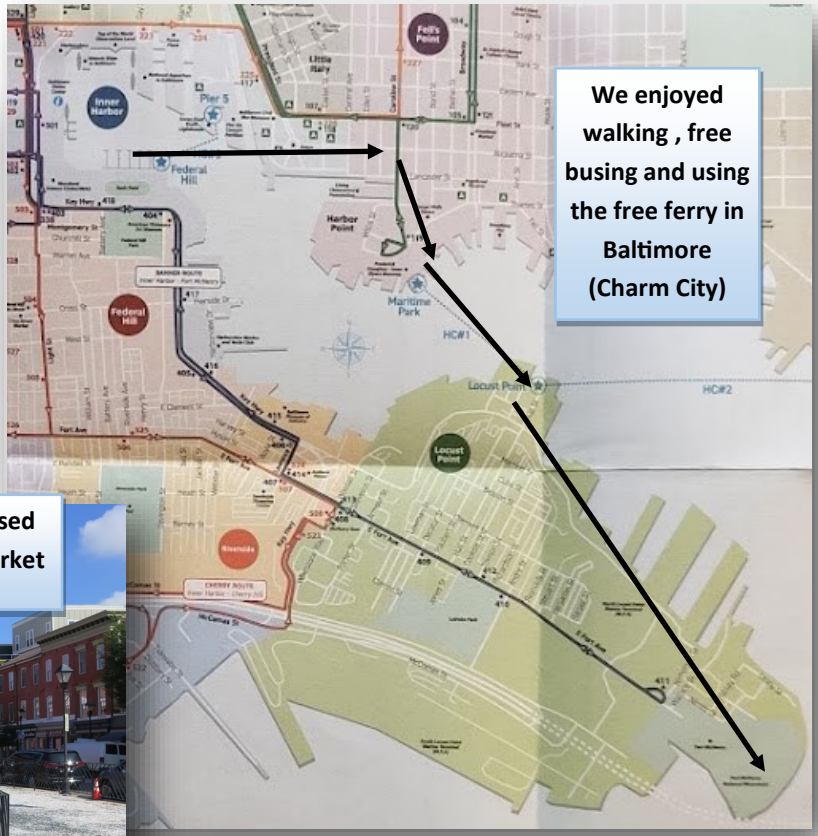


This giant screen held everybody's attention with scores, adverts, chants and dancing. This scenario was when this popular ex player returned and proposed to his girl-friend live on screen. The crowd went mad when she accepted





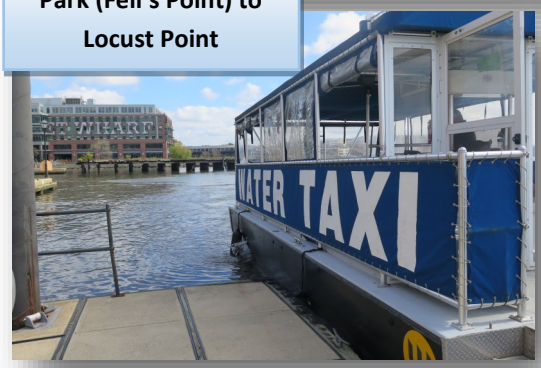




We enjoyed walking , free busing and using the free ferry in Baltimore (Charm City)

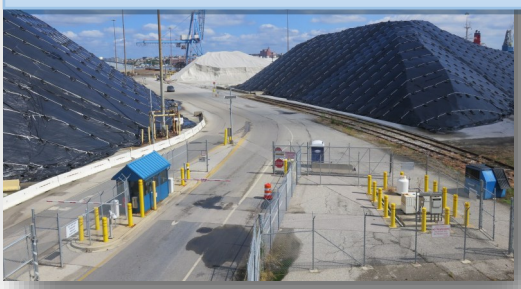
The repurposed Broadway Market

Water Taxi at Maritime Park (Fell's Point) to Locust Point



These modern apart-ments are known as Silo Point (built round these existing silos)

These fascinating mounds are salt (under tarpaulins) , ready for road use in bad weather



2130
Orioles

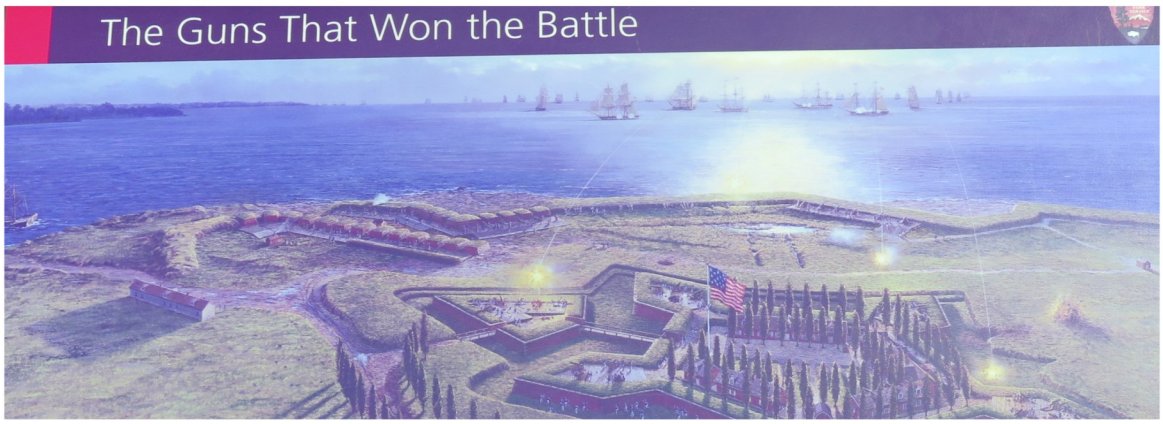
131
BWC Terminals
WARNING
RESTRICTED AREA
NOTICE
STATE PROPERTY
NO TRESPASSING
VIOLATORS WILL
BE PROSECUTED

FORT McHENRY

There were 26 cannons in two tiers . They fired shot

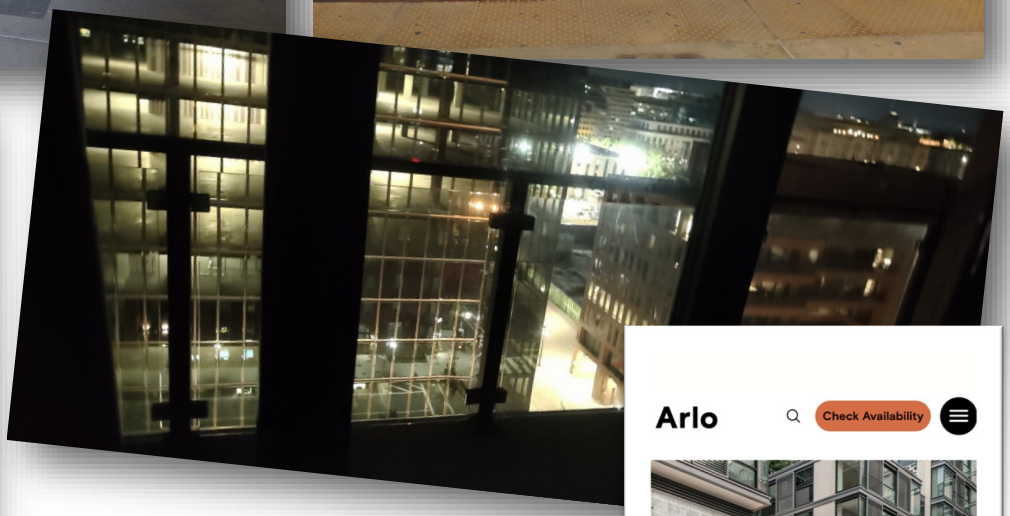
Weighing 18 and 36 lbs. almost a mile. Heated cannonballs known as 'hot shot' proved especially devastating to wooden ships. On sept 14th the British withdrew , unwilling to come within range of the fort's guns

Fort McHenry was well maintained and it was worth the long hot walk from the ferry. The rangers did an excellent job in helping us to understand the original purpose of the fort

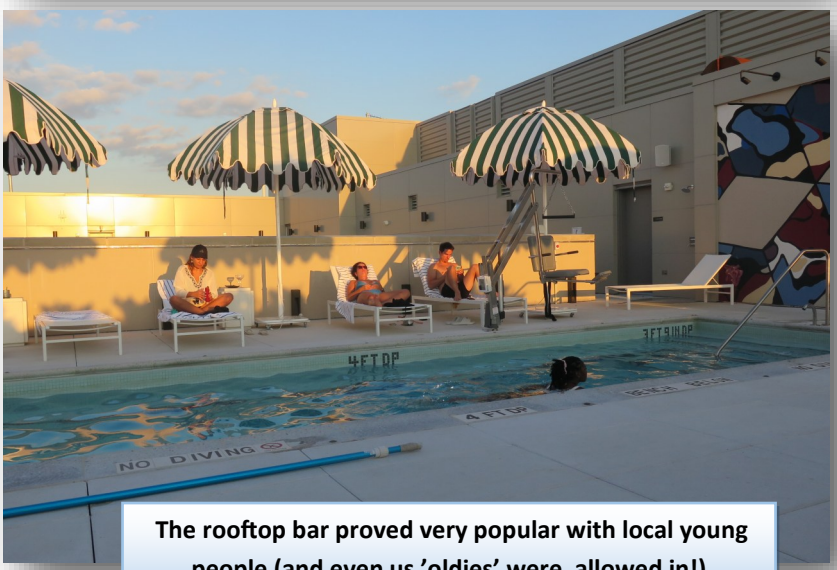


We returned our hire car at Baltimore and took the Amtrak train direct to Washington DC

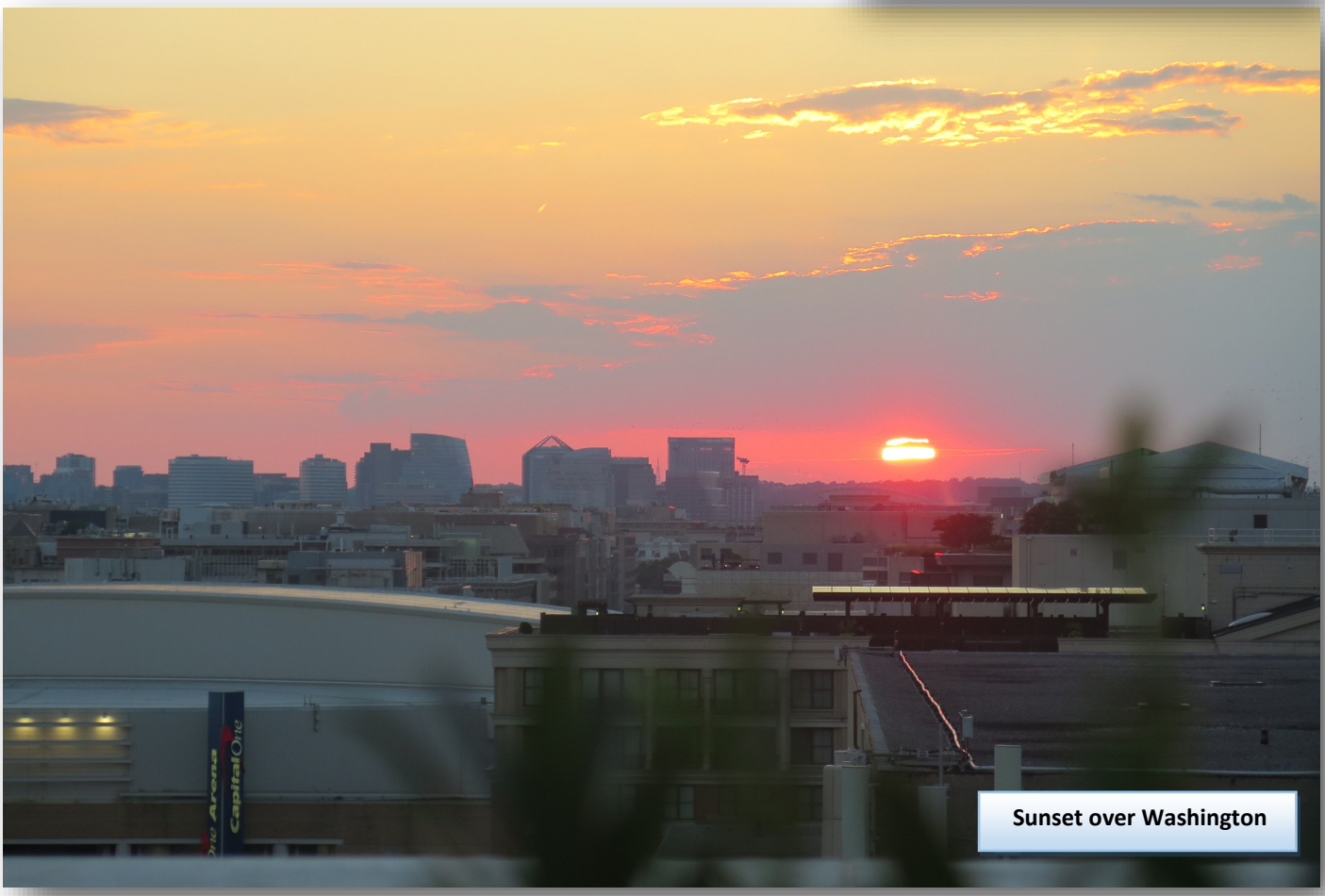
The beautiful station



We chose The Arlo Hotel as it was within easy walking distance of the centre of Washington DC

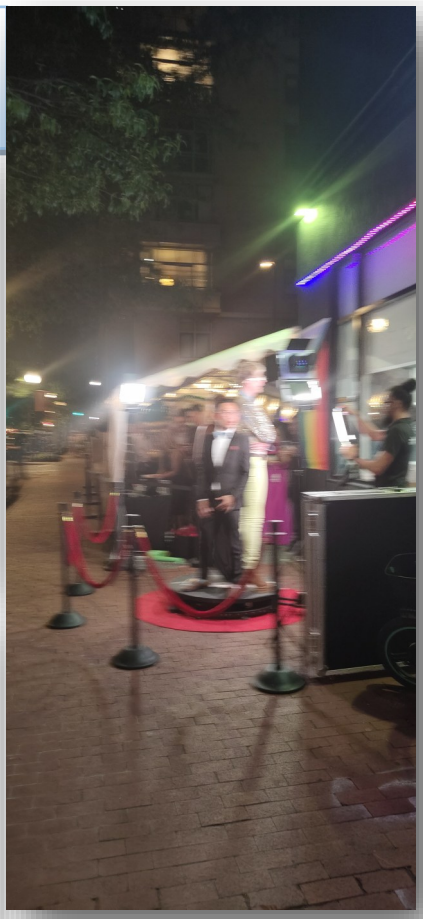


The rooftop bar proved very popular with local young people (and even us 'oldies' were allowed in!)

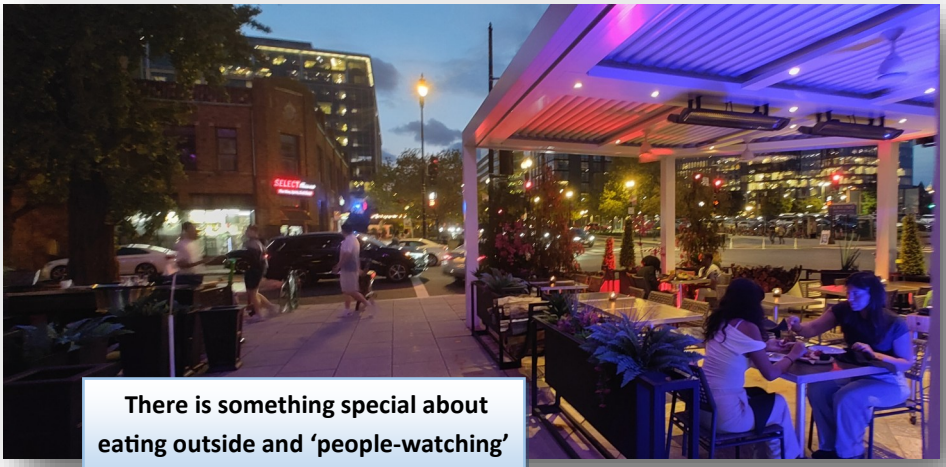


Sunset over Washington

This small vacant lot close to our hotel had a temporary marquee erected on it and it had a popular fun drag stage with a dance and photo area with heavy security



Washington DC dog walkers seemed to be in high demand , probably due to the many high-rise apartments and not many suitable parks



There is something special about eating outside and 'people-watching'

This lovely old façade is now an H&M store

What a great idea..lunch in the park sitting on a swing

Baloon fun on The Mall

A welcome sight

中國城
AT&T
AT&T
AT&T
NO TURNS
FUDDRUCKERS

Chinatown

WE ARE CHINATOWN
我們就是唐人街

TONY CHEN
MONGOLIAN RESTAURANT
617
CAT
WE ARE CHINATOWN
我們就是唐人街
成龍海鮮菜館
DONOHOE
CONSTRUCTION AREA
KEEP OUT

As we approached the Smithsonian we saw this colourful group across the road. They told us they were celebrating a special birthday

The appreciative audience

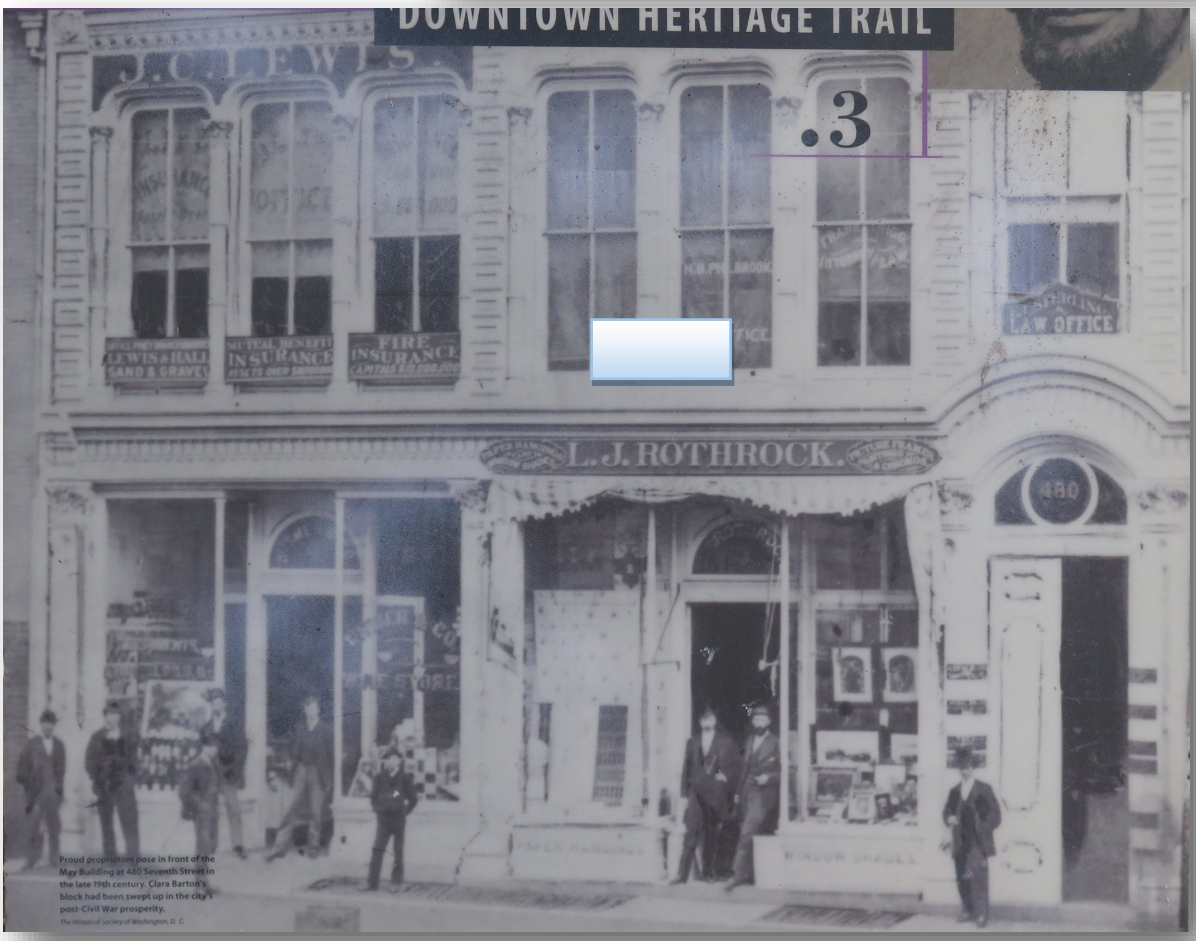
As these veterans arrived at the memorial these young National Guard helped them off their coach and we heard one say "Thank you sir for all you did for us"

I love this statue outside the local Fire Station with that dog looking up at his master

We chatted to him and he told us his family came from Wales

Photo History

As we walked along the wide streets we saw many of these 'Downtown Trail' information boards and they showed amazing facades some of which are still discernable.



Civil War to Civil Rights
DOWNTOWN HERITAGE TRAIL

We spent a good deal of time in the National Gallery of Art (taking loads of photos) and the art works were very well displayed in a wonderful setting. Having timed entry also kept the galleries from being overcrowded.

The Gallery's collection includes some 141,000 paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, sculpture, decorative arts, and new media tracing the development of Western art from the Middle Ages to the present.

National Gallery of Art

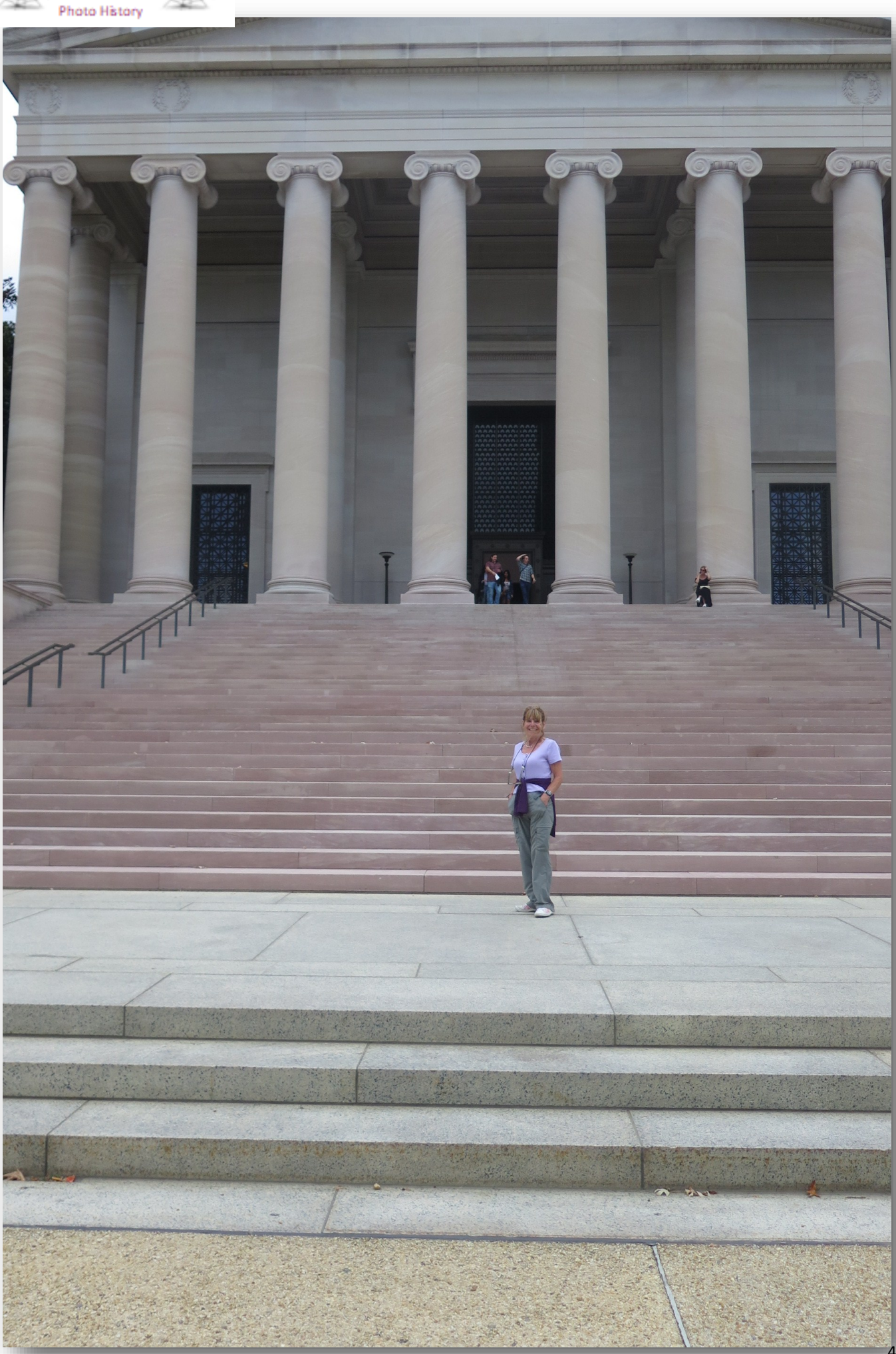
GEORGIA O'KEEFFE
American, 1887–1986
A Black Bird with Snow-Covered Red Hills
1946
oil on canvas
Anonymous Gift 2021.58.1

Christoffel Pierson
Dutch, 1631 – 1714

Niche with Falconry Gear, probably 1660s
oil on canvas

Patrons' Permanent Fund 2003.39.1

Beta Kappa by **Morris Louis**, created in **1961**.



Gerret Willemsz Heda
Dutch, active 1640s and 1650s

Still Life with Ham, 1650
oil on panel

Gift of John S. Thacher 1985.16.1

The Veil of Veronica
oil on panel, c. 1618/1622
DOMENICO FETTI
Roman, c. 1589–1623 or 1624
Samuel H. Kress Collection 1952.5.7

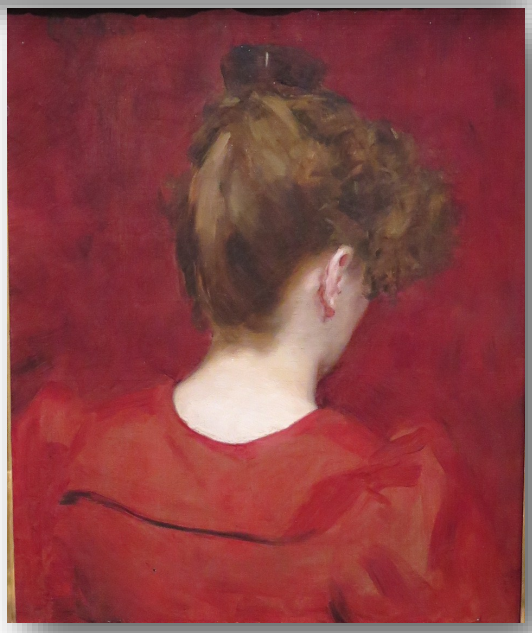
Claude Monet
French, 1840 – 1926

Waterloo Bridge, Gray Day, 1903
oil on canvas

Joseph Mallord William Turner
British, 1775 – 1851

Mortlake Terrace, 1827
oil on canvas

Andrew W. Mellon Collection 1937.1.109



Carolus-Duran
French, 1837 – 1917

Study of Lilia, 1887
oil on canvas

New Century Fund,
Gift of Edwin L. Cox – Ed Cox Foundation 1999.45.1

As you can imagine I took lots of photos of the wonderful art on display and the three preceding pages are just the tip of the iceberg. The next ones are a few from the Black photographers Exhibition. Both were difficult choices.

Maria Varela
American, born 1940

Perry "Pap" Hamer Cooking Cracklins, c. 1965
gelatin silver print

National Gallery of Art,
Alfred H. Moses and Fern M. Schad Fund

Dawoud Bey
American, born 1953

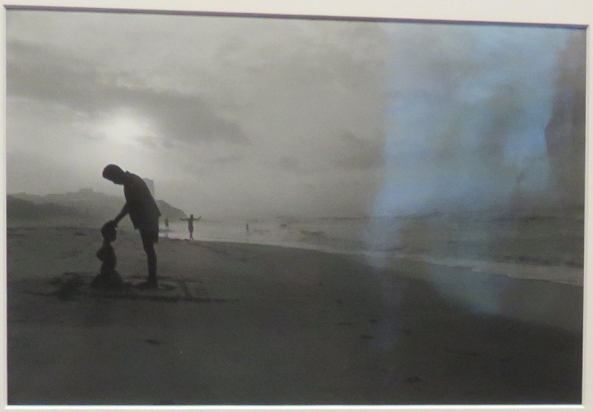
The Blues Singer, Harlem, NY, 1976
gelatin silver print

National Gallery of Art,
Gift of the Charina Endowment Fund
in memory of Robert B. Menschel

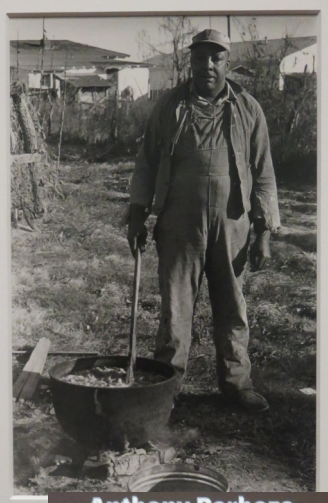
Chester Higgins
American, born 1946

Father prays over son on Osu Beach, Accra, Ghana, 1973
gelatin silver print

National Gallery of Art,
Alfred H. Moses and Fern M. Schad Fund



PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE BLACK ARTS MOVEMENT, 1955–1985



Anthony Barboza
American, born 1944

Pensacola, Florida, 1966
gelatin silver print

Maria Varela
American, born 1940

Amy's First Day, Indianola, Mississippi, 1965

Alex Harsley
American, born 1938

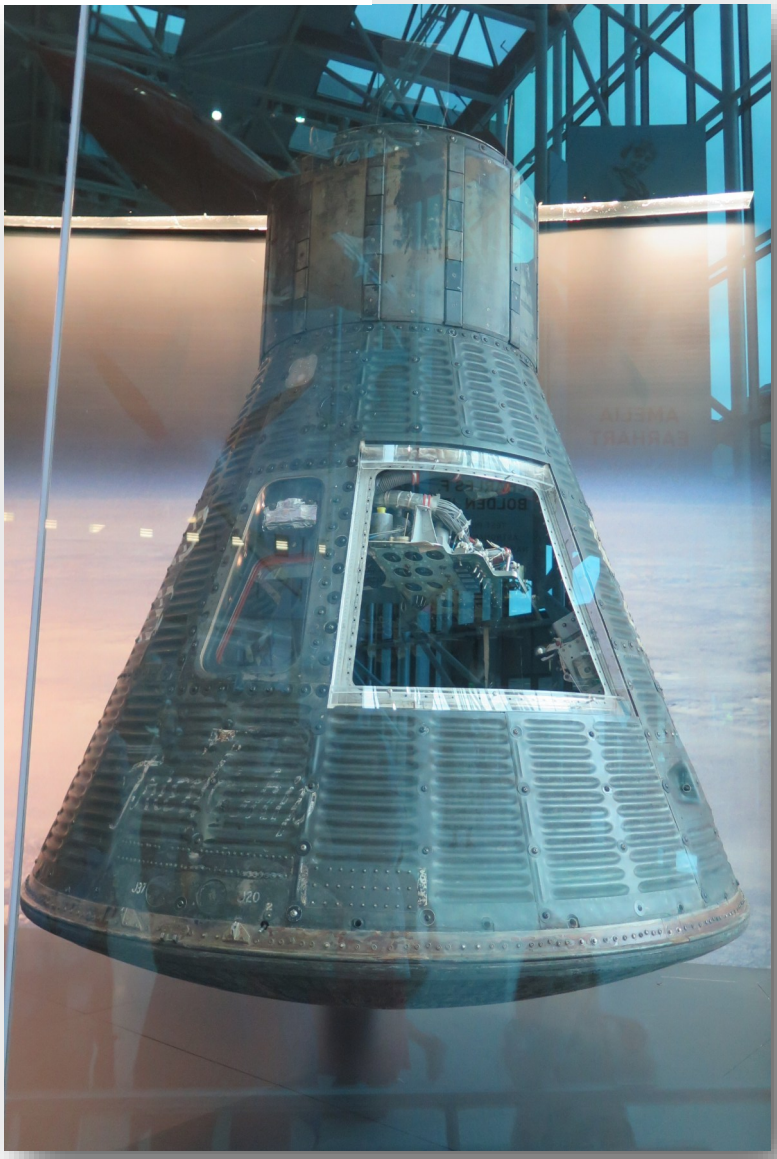
Nite Meetings, 1959, printed 2024
inkjet print

On loan from the artist

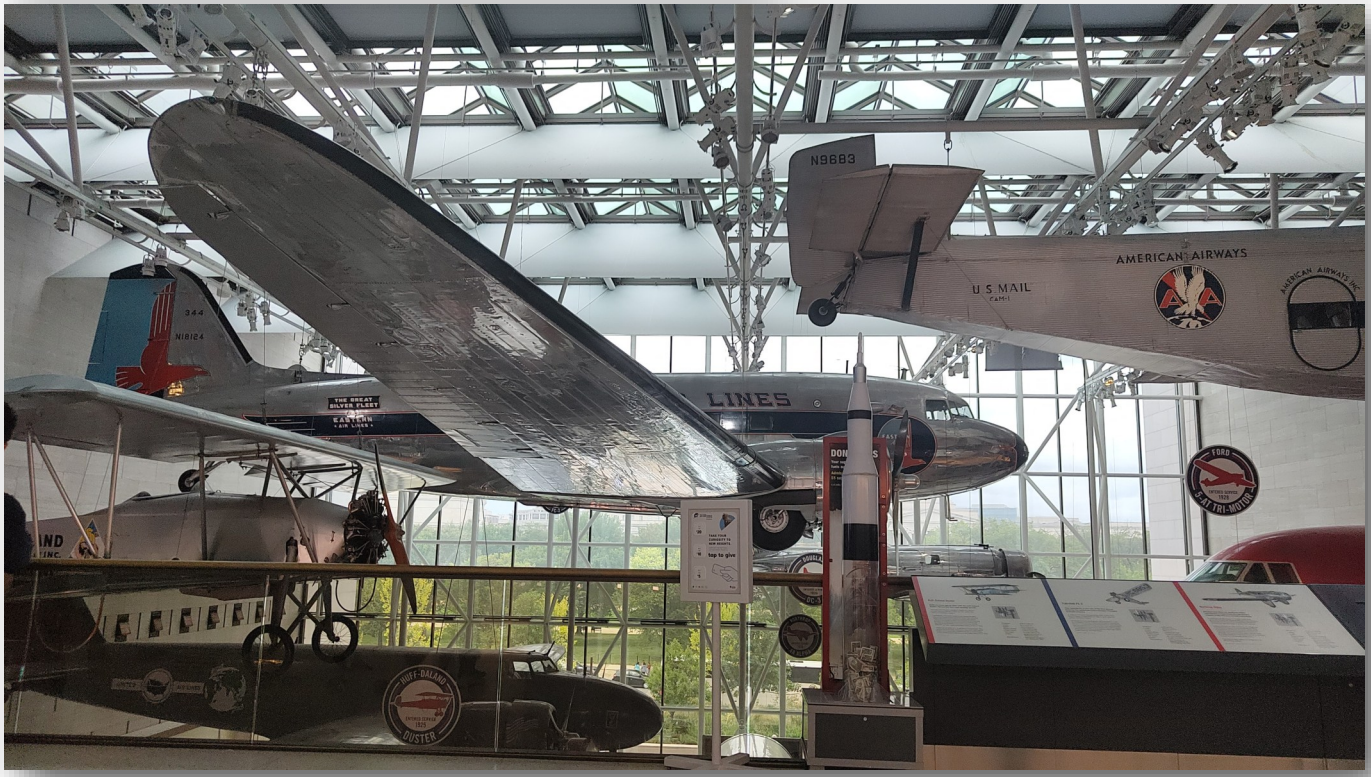
Frank Stewart
American, born 1949

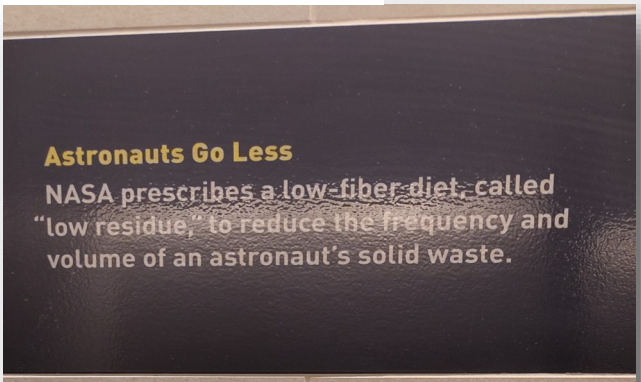
Easter Sunday, 1976, printed later
inkjet print

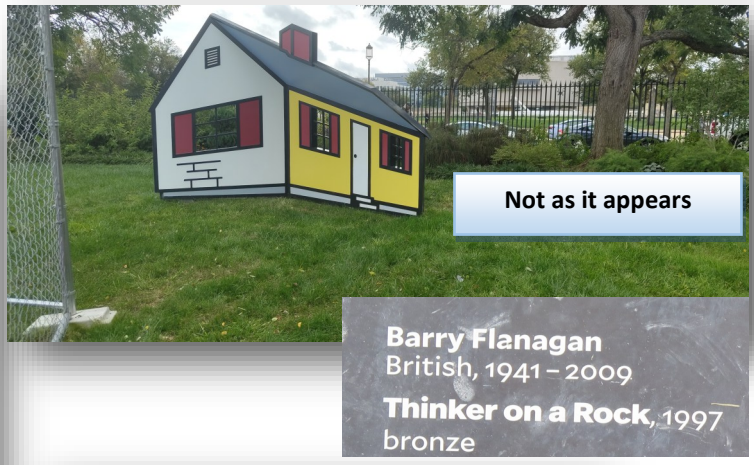
Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture



The National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution is dedicated to human flight and space exploration. It was well displayed and youngsters especially seemed enthralled







This is the second Volume of our travels based on Washington DC where we hired a car after exploring Georgetown and Washington for a few days, then driving to Front Royal , Lancaster and Baltimore where we returned the hire car. We then took the train back to Washington. We met great people, walked and laughed a lot and had a really great time experiencing so many facets of the USA...a great country and an enlightenment. The idea of these volumes is to act as a reminder to us of the various quirky things we saw and experienced and as we get older these volumes will surely act as great memory jerkers.

To further bore anyone interested I also did a daily blog which will follow (*yawn, yawn..ok, no-one insisted you look at them ...hand them back, politely say " looks great Ralph & Lynn" and then beat a hasty retreat before more appear.)*

(..Yes, there are a lot of photos from the Main Art Gallery and also from a black photography exhibition which started the day we visited ..and was excellent too…

We love travel and the whole new vistas, lifestyles and numerous experience we have seen over many years.. Meeting great people and sharing experiences are something very special . So saying, we also love coming home. The hassles of long -haul are becoming almost disagreeable and we possibly will now do more local and European travels. There's a whole world out there and one possibly can experience lots of unexpected and unanticipated experiences closer to home…

"watch this space "...as they say